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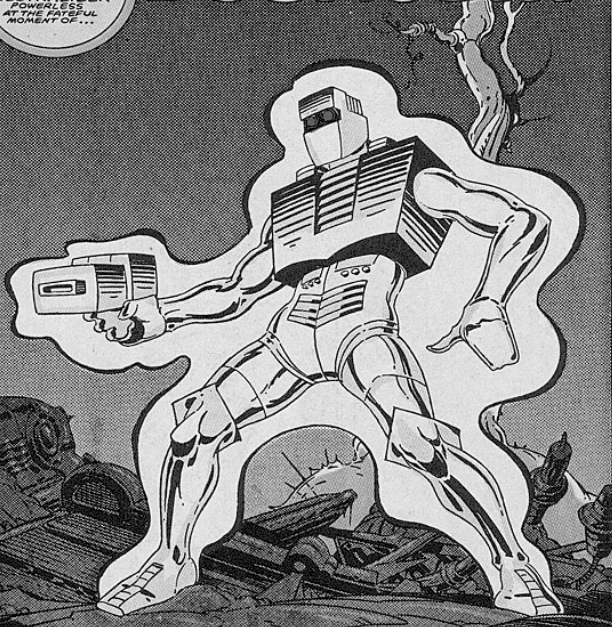
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APR



THE DIRE
WRAITH SPELL
HOLDS ROM,
GREATEST OF
THE SPACE KNIGHTS
ENTRALLED
RENDERING BOTH
HIM AND HIS MIGHTY
NEUTRALIZER
POWERLESS
AT THE FATEFUL
MOMENT OF...

DOOMSDAY!



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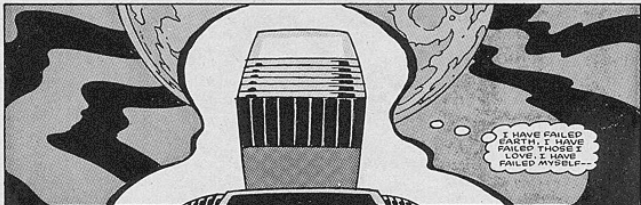
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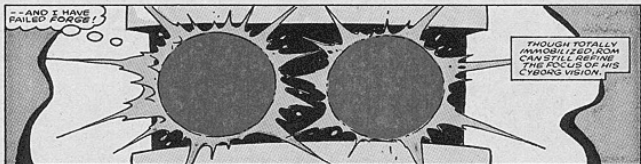
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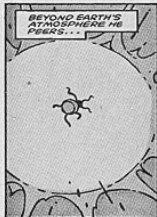


I HAVE FAILED
EARTH, I HAVE
FAILED THOSE I
LOVE. I HAVE
FAILED MYSELF--



--AND I HAVE
FAILED FORGE!

THOUGH TOTALLY
IMMOBILIZED, ROM
CAN STILL REFINE
THE FOCUS OF HIS
CYBORG VISION.



BEYOND EARTH'S
ATMOSPHERE HE
PEERS...



... TOWARDS THE
MALIGNANT WORLD
LIMED AGAINST A
RALEFUL BLACK SUN.



IT IS NOT WRAITHWORLD
THE HELPLESS CYBORG
SCANS SKYWARD FOR,
HOWEVER...



... BUT AN ALMOST-
IMPERCEPTIBLE
CONSTRUCTION OF
LIGHTWEIGHT ALLOYS
HASTILY ASSEMBLED
IN SPACE.



MANY NATIONS OF EARTH SPENT
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN A MEKE
MATTER OF DAYS TO FINANCE
THE BUILDING OF THIS COMBINATION
OF SPACE STATION AND WEAPON.

AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF
ASTRONAUTS RACED AGAINST
THE CLOCK TO COMPLETE
CONSTRUCTION BEFORE THE
MOMENT OF WORLDMERGE.

BUT, THOUGH THE BUILDING OF THE NEONEUTRALIZER WAS A COLLECTIVE UNDER-TAKING BY AN IMPERILED PLANET DESPERATELY SEEKING SOME MEANS OF SALVATION...

...IT HAD ITS INCEPTION IN THE BRILLIANT BRAIN OF THE MUTANT INVENTOR MEN CALL FORGE!

ONLY ROM'S NEUTRALIZER CAN POWER MY NEONEUTRALIZER! IF HE'S NOT BACK SOON IT MAY WELL BE TOO LATE TO REVERSE THE ONSLAUGHT OF WORLDMERGE!

YOU AND THAT ALIEN ARE UP TO SOMETHING, MUTIE, BUT WHATEVER IT IS, YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

YOUR WEAPON'S GOING TO BE USED TO BANISH EVERY STINKING WRAITH ON EARTH... AND THEN TO MAKE EARTH SAFE BY ELIMINATING THE EXTRAHUMAN POWERS OF EVERY MUTANT AND SUPER-POWERED VIGILANTE PLAGUING THE PLANET!

GYRICH IS SO BLINDED BY HIS HATRED FOR ANY BEING POSSESSED OF SUPER-HUMAN POWERS THAT HE CAN'T EVEN DEAL WITH THE PRESENT WRAITH THREAT!

I'M STUCK HERE IN SPACE WITH A MADMAN! DOOMSDAY IS FAST APPROACHING! AND ROM STILL HASN'T RETURNED!

ARRWWRRROOOOOO!!



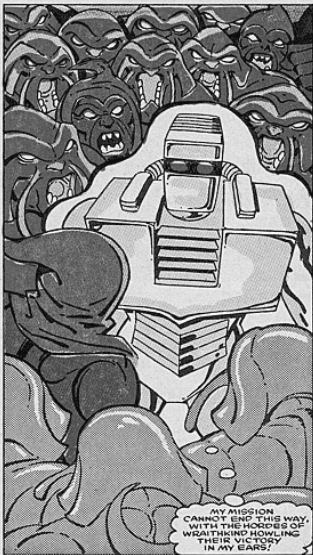
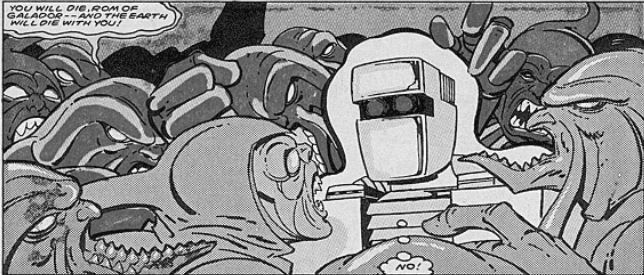
-- TO WITNESS THE HUMILIATION AND HUMILIATION OF OUR ARCH-FOE, ROM--
GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS!

EVERY WRAITH ON EARTH IS ASSEMBLED IN THIS RUINED CHURCH!

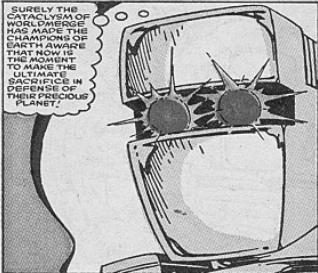
COULD I BUT COMMAND MY NERVELESS FINGERS TO MOVE, I COULD FIRE MY NEUTRALIZER AND BANISH THEM ALL TO LIMBO!



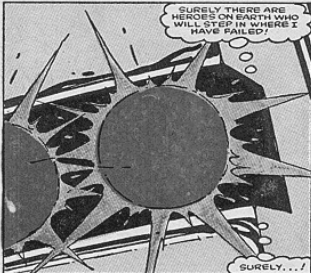
YOU WILL DIE, ROM OF GALADOR -- AND THE EARTH WILL DIE WITH YOU!



SURELY THE CATAclysm OF WORLDMERGE HAS MADE THE CHAMPIONS OF EARTH AWARE THAT NOW IS THE MOMENT TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN DEFENSE OF THEIR PRECIOUS PLANET!



SURELY THERE ARE HEROES ON EARTH WHO WILL STEP IN WHERE I HAVE FAILED!



SURELY...!

PUT NO FAITH IN FALSE AND FORLORN HOPES, SPACEKNIGHT! YOU ARE ALONE AND ABANDONED! WHICHEVER HEROES EARTH MIGHT HAVE MARSHALLED IN HER OWN DEFENSE HAVE EITHER BEEN OVERWHELMED BY THE CATAclysm's ACCOMPANYING WORLDMERGE, OR CROUCH COWERING IN FEAR, AWAITING THE END!



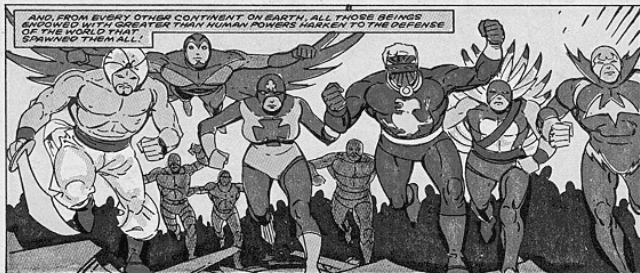
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, WRAITHS!

WRAITH SISTERS...

...LOOK!!!







BUT IT IS NOT ONLY THE SUPER-HUMAN THAT FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF EARTH! IN THIS, THE FINAL BATTLE OF THE WRAITH WAR, COMMON HUMANITY TAKES UP ARMS TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF THE RACE!

WRAITH-HUNTER
RANGERS--CHARGE!

THIS
MAY BE
EARTH'S
FINAL
BATTLE!

BUT
CAN WE
WIN IT,
RICK?

WE MUST,
CINDY--IF
HUMANITY IS TO
SURVIVE!

WIELDING THEIR WEAPONS LIKE COMMANDOS BORN, RICK JONES, BRANDY CLARK AND CINDY ADAMS PUSH THROUGH THE SWATH CUT IN THE WRAITHS' RANKS TO STAND AT THE SIDE OF THE IMMOBILIZED ROM...

OH, ROM-- WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO HIM!

BOUND HIM WITH MAGIC, BRANDY!

THAT'S WHAT THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE WRAITH THAT DIED INSIDE MY MIND TELLS ME THEY WOULD HAVE DONE!

ROM'S POWER IS NEEDED TO ENERGIZE THE NEONEUTRALIZER! IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN BREAK THE SPELL?

WE HAVEN'T ANY SPECIAL POWERS OR ABILITIES, RICK, BUT MAYBE WE DON'T NEED THEM!

ALL WRAITH MAGIC IS CONCEIVED IN EVIL-- HATE! PERHAPS WE CAN REVERSE THEIR SPELLS WITH--

AS BRANDY CLARK EMBRACES THE GREAT SILVER SPACEKNIGHT, RICK JONES FEELS A PANG OF JEALOUSY...

WHETHER IT IS BRANDY'S KISS AND THE LOVE SHE FEELS IN HER HEART FOR ROM...

BRANDY DOES LOVE ROM... EVEN AS I'VE STARTED TO LOVE HER!

... OR A WEAKENING OF THE WRAITHS' SPELLS AS THEY DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST THE HEROES OF EARTH, NONE CAN SAY--

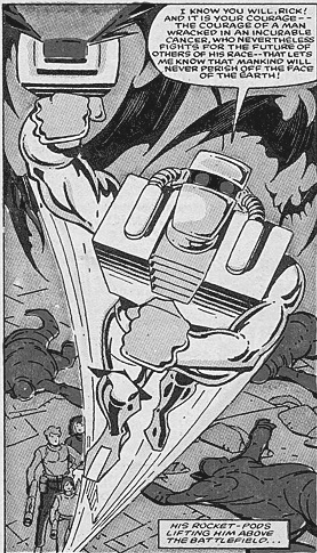
-- BUT THE MYSTIC TIES THAT BOUND THE GALADRIAN GLADIATOR MELT AWAY, AND ROM STANDS READY TO JOIN THE FRY!

AS I HAVE FOUGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF MAN, SO HAS HUMANITY FOUGHT TO FREE ME!

NOW LET WRAITHKIND REAP WHAT THEY HAVE SOWN--

-- FOR ROM, SPACEKNIGHT, SHALL FIGHT TO THE DEATH TO DEFEND HIS ADOPTED HOME!

GO TO IT, BIG BUDDY! WE'LL BE BEHIND YOU ALL THE WAY!



RINGED BY THE RANKS OF WRAITHKIND, ROM AND THE HEROES OF EARTH BATTLE BRAVELY IN DEFENSE OF THE IMPERILED PLANET!



YET, THE TRUE DANGER OF THE IMMINENT APPROACH OF WORLDMERGE--WHEN WRAITHWORLD WILL SUPPLANT EARTH AS THE THIRD PLANET FROM THE SUN--HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN IN THE CLAMOR OF COMBAT!

BUT THERE IS ONE WHO HAS NOT FORGOTTEN...



...ONE WHOSE WRAITH-TOUCHED MIND IS PRIVY TO THE WRAITHS' MOST SECRET PLANS!

THIS BATTLE IS ALL WRONG -- A DELAYING TACTIC BY THE WRAITHS!



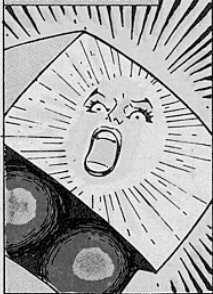
THEY SEEK TO HOLD ROM AND THE HEROES HERE --

-- WHILE THE TRUE VICTORY CAN ONLY BE WON IN SPACE!

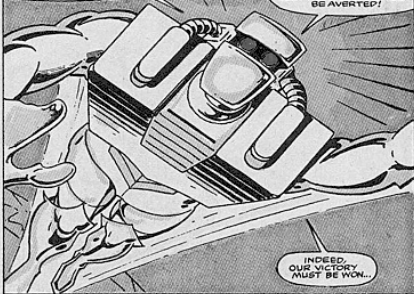


CINDY ADAMS CRIES THAT REVELATION ALOUD...

... AND, MIRACULOUSLY, THE TRUTH OF IT REACHES THE CYBORG CIRCUITRY OF THE SLEEK SILVER SPACENIGHT SOARING HIGH IN THE SKY!



I KNOW NOT HOW I HEARD THE CHILD ABOVE THE DIN, BUT SHE IS RIGHT!

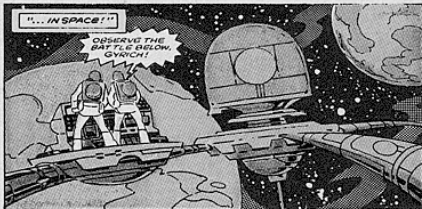


WE COULD BANISH EVERY WRAITH ON EARTH, AND STILL LOSE ALL -- LEST THE WORLDMERGE BE AVERTED!

INDEED, OUR VICTORY MUST BE WON...

"... IN SPACE!"

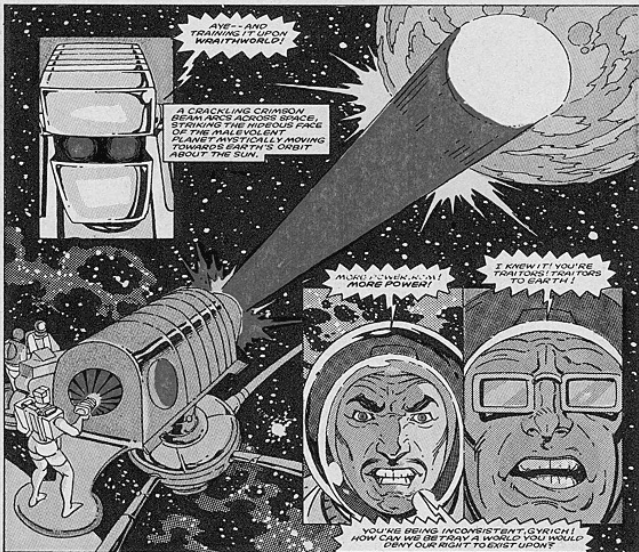
OBSERVING THE BATTLE BELOW, GUYCH!



THOSE HEROES FIGHTING SO VALIANTLY IN THE EARTH'S DEFENSE ARE THE SAME BEINGS WHOSE POWERS YOU'D LIKE TO DESTROY!







BUT, IN ANY EVENT, FORGE AND I HAVE BETRAYED NOTHING SAVE YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS, THAT WE WOULD TRAIN THE NEONEUTRALIZER GUN ON EARTH AND ERADICATE WHATEVER WRAITHS ITS BEAM FOUND THERE!

THAT WE COULD NEVER DO!
THERE ARE TOO MANY MUTANTS AND SUPER-BEINGS EXISTING ON EARTH WHOSE POWERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRAGICALLY AFFECTED BY MY WEAPON!

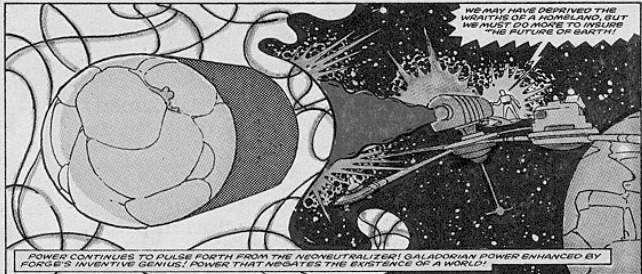
SO INSTEAD ROM AND I DECIDED TO ERADICATE THE DIRE WRAITHS' EVIL AT ITS SORCEROUS SOURCE -- WRAITHWORLD ITSELF!

WHEREVER THE NEONEUTRALIZER BEAM TOUCHES THE ONCOMING PLANET, BALEFUL BLACK MAGIC GIVES WAY TO BEAUTY, THE HARSH HORROR OF ITS SURFACE SOFTENS... AND FLOWERS BEGIN TO BLOOM.

WE'RE STILL IN TROUBLE, ROM!

AWE! BE WRAITH -
WORLD: A PARADISE
OR A PURGATORY--

-- ITS NEARNESS TO EARTH WILL STILL CAUSE MASSIVE DESTRUCTION, FOR NO TWO WORLDS CAN OCCUPY THE SAME POSITION IN SPACE AT THE SAME TIME!



WE MAY HAVE DEPRIVED THE
WRAITHS OF A HOME, BUT
WE MUST DO MORE TO INSURE
THE FUTURE OF EARTH!

POWER CONTINUES TO PULSE FORTH FROM THE NEONEUTRALIZER! GALADRIAN POWER ENHANCED BY
FORGE'S INVENTIVE GENIUS! POWER THAT NEGATES THE EXISTENCE OF A WORLD!

WRAITHWORLD!
IT-IT'S...GONE!

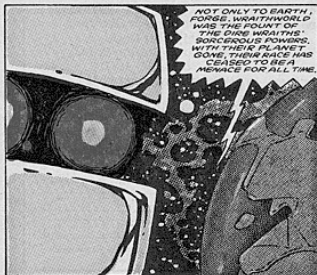
WRAITHWORLD WAS A PLANET
BORN IN THE BLACK LIGHT OF
A SORCEROUS SUN! ONCE WE
NEGATED ITS MAGIC, IT COULD
NOT CONTINUE TO EXIST. YES,
WRAITHWORLD IS GONE, AND
WITH IT HAS PASSED ANY
DIREIL WRAITHING MIGHT
HAVE POSED TO EARTH.



"THUS, A NEW DAY DAWNS FOR ALL BEINGS
ON ALL WORLDS AFFECTED BY THE DIRE
WRAITH INFESTATION. A DAY OF CLEANSING
A DAY OF REJOICING. A DAY OF... REBIRTH!"

ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH,
THE SUN SHINES PURE AND
UNPOLLUTED AND EARTH'S
PROTECTOR STAND VICTORIOUS,
AS THE HORDES OF WRAITHS
Huddle POWERLESS...

NOT ONLY TO EARTH,
FORGE, WRAITHWORLD
WAS THE POINT OF
THE DINE WRAITHS'
SORCEROUS POWERS,
WITH THEIR PLANET
GONE, THEIR RACE HAS
CEASED TO BE A
MENACE FOR ALL TIME.



... FOR THE LONG WRAITH WINTER
HAS FINALLY REACHED... THE END.



THE TIME OF
WORLDMERGE IS
SOON UPON US! UNABLE
TO ENSLAVE THE EARTH
OR TO RETURN TO THEIR
WORLD, THE WRAITHS
HIT UPON A SCHEME
MOST SINISTER!

BY EXPENDING
PRACTICALLY ALL
THEIR ELDritch ENERGIES,
THEY HAVE SUMMONED FROM
ACROSS THE VOID THEIR
OWN WORLD--WRAITHWORLD--
TO TAKE EARTH'S PLACE IN
ORBIT ABOUT THE STAR--
SUN SOL!

EVEN THAT SUN,
WHICH ONCE SHONE SO
SPLENDIDLY AND WARMED
A LIVING WORLD WITH ITS
LIGHT, HAS BEEN ALTERED--
TAINTED--TURNED BY
WRAITH MAGIC INTO A
BLACK MOCKERY OF
A STAR!

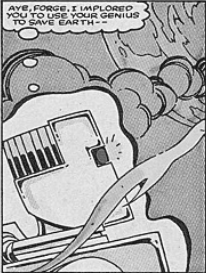
THUS, A PROCESS
HAS BEGUN WHICH
WILL MAKE THIS UNIVERSE
INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM
THE WRAITH'S OWN
DREADED DARK NEBULA--
AND WHICH WILL DESTROY
THE EARTH TO MAKE ROOM
FOR WRAITHWORLD!

ALREADY CATASTROPHES
AND CATASTROPHES WRACK
EARTH! GEOLOGICAL UPHEAVALS!
VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS! TYPHOON
WINDS AND TIDAL WAVES SWEEPING
COASTAL AREAS AWAY!



THE PLANET I PLEDGED
MYSELF TO PROTECT IS
WRITHING IN HELL'S GRASP -
THROES! AND HELD CAPTIVE
AS I AM BY DIKE WRAITH
ENCHANTMENT - THERE IS
NOTHING I CAN DO
TO SAVE HER!

AVE, FORGE, I IMPLORDED
YOU TO USE YOUR GENIUS
TO SAVE EARTH--

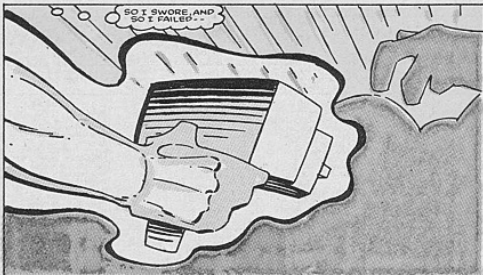


-- WHEN YOU MIGHT HAVE
USED IT TO SAVE YOURSELF AND
OTHERS OF YOUR KIND!

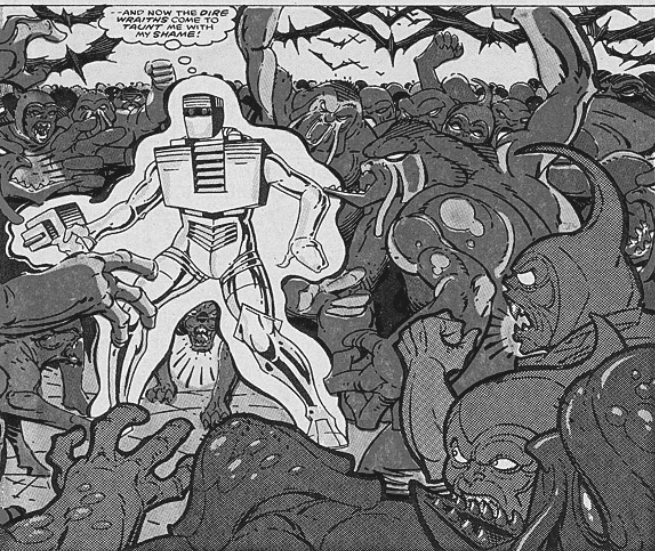




I SWORE TO
STAND BESIDE
YOU IN SPACE,
TO POWER YOUR
WEAPON WHEN
THE TIME WAS
RIPE!



SO I SWORE, AND
SO I FAILED...



-AND NOW THE DIRE
WRATH'S COME TO
TAUNT ME WITH
MY SHAME!

THE SITUATION IS EVERY BIT AS GRIM AS RICK JONES' RADIO-ALERT DESCRIBED IT, HERCULES!

AYE, VERILY, CAPTAIN MARVEL!

EARTH'S WOULD-BE SAVIOR STANDS, ENTRANCED WHILE EARTH'S ENEMIES FLOCK THICK ABOUT HIM!



AND SO DO EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES LEAP INTO BATTLE, WHILE FOLLOWING FAST UPON THEIR HEELS COME OTHER, NO LESS POWERFUL TEAMS!

THE WEST COAST AVENGERS!





Mmbacon and the Ha



Another Fine



ROM 65

1979 Series - M

Stories:

Final battle: W

Peter Gyrich, F

Super-Soldiers

21 Scanned pa

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